1. Title / Episode Link: Equality for All: LGBTQ Equal Rights

2. Historic Site: Various

3. Episode: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V1RrBtngh8s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V1RrBtngh8s)

4. Developed by: Sally Purath, Poudre School District
   Kile Clabaugh, Library of Congress Teaching With Primary Sources Program

5. Grade Level and Standards:
   **Grade Level: 6th - HS**
   Content in this Document Based Question (DBQ) link to Prepared Graduate Competencies in the Colorado Academic Standards
   **Prepared Graduate Competencies:**
   - Understand the nature of historical knowledge as a process of inquiry that examines and analyzes how history is viewed, constructed, and interpreted.

   **Colorado Standards:**
   - 6th: History Standard 1
   - HS: History Standard 1

   **C3 Standards in Social Studies:**
   - D2.His.1.6-8
   - D2.His.2.6-8
   - D2.His.3.6-8
   - D2.His.2.9-12.
   - D2.His.1.9-12.
   - D3.1.6-8.
   - D3.3.6-8
   - D2.His.3.9-12.
   - D2.His.1.9-12.

6. Assessment Question:
   What historic places played an important role in the LGBT movement in Colorado, specifically allowing LGBT people the ability to meet safely as well as organize to fight for equal rights?

7. Contextual Paragraph: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender people mostly hid their orientations...
through early Colorado history, but society and officials did not pay them much attention. However, during the Red Scare of the 1950s—when Americans were afraid of a world Communist take-over—the federal government not only ordered those suspected of being Communists fired from federal jobs, but additionally ordered the firing of all suspected gays and lesbians out of fear that they would be blackmailed into revealing state secrets to keep from being harmed by other Americans. Also in the 1950s, psychologists officially classified gays and lesbians as mentally ill, so they were shunned, arrested, and sometimes treated violently.

Gays and lesbians began to meet in secret beginning in 1939 at the first gay bar in Denver called The Pit at Colfax and Broadway, as well as at the Brown Palace Hotel. After World War II, Denver’s gay community became more organized and publicly visible. Mary’s Tavern at 1563 Broadway, for example, mostly attracted Lowry Air Force Base airmen.

The Mattachine Society was the first gay national organization, and they held their sixth national conference at the Hotel Albany in Denver in 1959. Because the organizers used their real names, Denver police arrested some and ran others out of town. It wasn’t until the 1969 Stonewall Inn Riots in New York City that gays began to fight back, however.

In 1972, the Gay Coalition of Denver rejected the gay bar culture and opened a gay and lesbian friendly coffee house called Beyond Lavender. The police arrested members of the coalition illegally, and dozens of others showed up to speak at a Denver City Council meeting to protest the unfair treatment of gays and lesbians, leading to four anti-gay laws being repealed. The first Denver gay parade was in 1975, but in the 1980s as AIDS began to cut down thousands of gay men, fear and persecution began to rise again.

The group Colorado for Family Values moved its headquarters to Colorado Springs and actively promoted eliminating equal rights for LGBT people on religious
grounds. In 1992, Colorado voters passed a referendum that changed the state constitution by ordering that no local or state law could prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation. The Supreme Court declared the law unconstitutional in 1995.

Due to continued violence, especially after the brutal murder of Mathew Shepard in Wyoming in 1998, LGBT people were eventually added to the state antidiscrimination laws in 2008. As public acceptance of LGBT people became more common, the laws changed as well, making it so they could inherit a partner’s property without marriage in 2009, legalizing civil unions in 2013, and then legalizing gay marriage by the U.S. Supreme Court in 2015.

Gay and lesbian bars continue to exist openly in downtown Denver today, creating public meeting places for them to socialize with LGBT and non-LGBT people as well. Many of the gay and lesbian bars have closed down because of the increasing acceptance of LGBT people in society, making them feel more comfortable going anywhere.

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<th>8. Connection to Historic Preservation</th>
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<tr>
<td>The History Colorado State Historical Fund and the Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation continue to work to document and preserve historic sites that are important in this area. Visit their Heritage Diversity Initiative to learn more. (<a href="http://www.historycolorado.org/oahp/heritage-diversity-initiative">http://www.historycolorado.org/oahp/heritage-diversity-initiative</a>)</td>
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Document Based Question (DBQ)

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<th>Document Set</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Parade during PrideFest and Gay Freedom Week Denver 1981</strong></td>
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<td><strong>GUIDING QUESTIONS:</strong></td>
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<td>1. What event was the yearly PrideFest parade and Gay Freedom Week commemorating?</td>
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<td>2. How did Denver’s attitude toward LGBT people change during the 1980s and why?</td>
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<td>3. Why was it important for LGBT people and their supporters to participate in a public parade down Denver streets every year rather than celebrate privately?</td>
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| **81st Congress Senate Report outlining why homosexuals should be fired from federal government jobs 1950** |
| **GUIDING QUESTIONS:** |
| 1. Why did Congress begin to discriminate against LGBT people working in the government after WWII when they did not do so before? |
2. What are the primary reasons they give for firing homosexuals from government jobs?

3. What does this source say about American society attitudes in the 1950s that they would fire both suspected homosexuals and fire suspected Communists without finding them guilty of doing something damaging?

http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/assault/context/employment.html

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<td>1. What factors led to Amendment 2 being passed in Colorado in 1992?</td>
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<td>2. What factors led to Amendment 2 being struck down by the Supreme court in 1995? How was this</td>
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Groups organize to get voters to pass or to vote down Amendment 2 in 1992, which forbids any state or local Colorado law from protecting the rights of LGBT people.
3. Why did Colorado pass laws giving a series of rights to LGBT people after 2008 when they had passed Amendment 2 forbidding protections in 1992? What had changed?


**Assessment Question**

What historic places played an important role in the LGBT movement in Colorado, specifically allowing LGBT people the ability to meet safely as well as organize to fight for equal rights?